

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 5-11 and 13-19 as follows:

A<sup>3</sup> 1. (Amended) A sandwich material comprising two metal plates which are affixed to and separated by a fibrous core, the core comprising a three-dimensional porous network comprising metal fibres, wherein substantially all of the fibres are inclined at an acute angle ( $\theta$ ) to the plates.

A<sup>4</sup> 3. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the metal plates and the metal fibres comprise metals selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, steel, aluminium and titanium.

5. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the plates are affixed to the fibrous core by means of a braze.

6. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the plates are affixed to the fibrous core by means of an adhesive.

A<sup>5</sup> 7. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the fibres in the core are randomly oriented.

8. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein  $\theta$  is less than  $60^\circ$ .

9. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of the fibres is less than  $500\ \mu\text{m}$ .

10. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the material is 0.5mm - 1 cm.

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Bridges

11. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the fibres occupy 5-50 volume% of the core.

13. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the core additionally comprises non-metallic fibres.

14. (Amended) A sandwich material according to claim 1, wherein the fibrous core additionally comprises a polymer matrix.

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15. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a sandwich material as defined in claim 1, comprising the step of affixing two metal plates to either side of a fibrous core.

16. (Amended) A welded material comprising a sandwich material as defined in claim 1 welded to a substrate.

17. (Amended) A vehicle part comprising a sandwich material as defined in claim 1.

18. (Amended) A vehicle part according to claim 17, which is selected from the group consisting of spoilers, panels and roofs.

19. (Amended) A vehicle comprising a vehicle part as defined in claim 17.